

Amendments to the Specification:

Please insert the following new paragraph [0026A] after paragraph [0026] on page 7:

[0026A] FIG. 7 is a detailed view of another flattened stent of the present invention with connections between adjacent elements.

Please replace the paragraph [0030] beginning on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

[0030] The generally cylindrical elements and stents are shown in FIGS. ~~2-6~~ 2-7 in a flattened state, such as the element 100 shown in FIG. 1a. However, one skilled in the art can appreciate that the stents ~~180~~ and/or elements ~~400~~ depicted therein are intended to be used in a cylindrical body, such as that shown in FIG. 1b.

Please replace the paragraph [0033] beginning on page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

[0033] A second end 126 of first valley turn 124 connects with a first end 128 of a short segment 130. Short segment 130 is shorter than mid-sized segment 118. A second end 132 of short segment 130 connects with a first end 134 of a second peak turn 136. Because short segment 130 is shorter than first mid-sized segment 118, ~~second peak turn 136 is a shorter peak than first peak turn 112. In other words,~~ second peak turn 136 does not extend as far in the longitudinal direction as first peak turn 112.

Please replace the paragraph [0034] beginning on page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] A second end 138 of second peak turn 136 connects with a first end 140 of a second midsize segment 142. A second end 144 of midsize segment 142 connects with a first end 146 of a second valley turn 148. A second end 150 of second valley turn 148 connects with the next adjacent series 103. Because second midsize segment 142 is longer than short segment 130, ~~second valley turn 148 is a longer valley than first valley turn 124. In other words,~~ first valley turn 124 does not extend as far in the longitudinal direction as second valley turn 148.

Please replace the paragraph [0042] beginning on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] Second valley turn 148 may ~~be longer or shorter~~ extend further in the longitudinal direction than first valley turn 124 or the first valley turn 124 may extend further in the longitudinal direction than the second valley turn 148, depending upon the length of midsize segment 142. Preferably, first valley turn 124 ~~is shorter (i.e., does not extend as far in the longitudinal direction) than~~ as second valley turn 148, because in a preferred embodiment, first and second midsize segments 118 and 142 are the same length. However, in other embodiments, second midsize segment 142 may longer or shorter than first midsize segment 118.

Please replace the paragraph [0046] beginning on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

[0046] As discussed above, the particular length of the segments becomes significant when the elements 200 are aligned on common longitudinal axis. FIG. 2 shows how elements ~~200~~ 200a, 200b may be aligned when each long segment ~~104~~ 104a, 104b is the same length, each first and second mid-sized segments ~~118, 142~~ 118a, 118b, 142a, 142b are the same length and each short segment ~~130~~ 130a, 130b is the same length. In this embodiment, shorter peaks of an element fit with longer valleys of an adjacent element, and longer peaks of an element fit with shorter valleys of an adjacent element. In other words, first peak turn ~~112~~ 112a abuts first valley turn ~~124~~ 124b of an adjacent element and second peak turn ~~136~~ 136a abuts second valley turn ~~148~~ 148b of an adjacent element.

Please replace the paragraph [0047] beginning on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

[0047] Elements 100 and 200 are functionally the same. The alignment of elements 100 of FIG. 1 would be a mirror image of the alignment of elements 200 of FIG. 2. Alternatively, elements 100 and 200 may be aligned together, such as in alternating bands, as shown in FIG. 3. In FIG. 3, the alignment still has first peak turn ~~112~~ 112b abutting first valley turn ~~124~~ 124c and second peak turn ~~136~~ 136b abutting second valley turn ~~148~~ 148c. Thus, one skilled in the art can appreciate that any arrangement of elements 100 and 200 may be suitable for the stent of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph [0048] beginning on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

[0048] If second midsize segment ~~442~~ 142b is shorter than first midsize segment ~~448~~ 118b (as shown in phantom lines 256 in FIG. 2), second valley turn ~~448~~ 148b is ~~shorter~~ and located such that a gap 258 occurs between ~~first~~ second valley turn ~~448~~ 148b of a first element 200b and second peak turn ~~436~~ 136a of the adjacent element 200a. Such gaps 258 reduce scaffolding and reduce support. Alternatively, if second midsize segment ~~442~~ 142b is longer than first midsize segment ~~448~~ 118b (as shown in phantom lines 260), second valley turn ~~448~~ 148b of ~~a~~ the first element 200b ~~is longer and~~ overlaps second peak turn ~~436~~ 136a of ~~an~~ the adjacent element 200a. Overlap may reduce the smooth effect of the stent causing turbulence in the vessel, which may lead to thrombosis. Therefore, unless all long segments ~~404~~ 104b are the same length, all first and second midsize segments ~~448, 442~~ all 118b, 142b are the same length and all short segments ~~430~~ 130b are the same length, respectively, then adjustments must be made in ~~an~~ the adjacent element ~~200~~ 200a in order to keep peaks and valleys generally abutting one another.

Please replace the paragraph [0060] beginning on page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] FIG. 7 shows another way in which elements 100 or 200 can be connected. Elements 100b, 100c are aligned such that first peak turn ~~412~~ 112c and second valley turn ~~448~~ 148b overlap in region 782. In region ~~782~~ 783, connection members 784 may extend between a long segment ~~404~~ 104a of an element 100a and a long segment ~~404~~ 104b of adjacent element 100b. Alternatively, a connection member 785 may extend

between a first midsized segment ~~448~~ 118c of an element 100c and a second midsized segment ~~442~~ 142b of an adjacent element 100b. In an unexpanded condition, connection members 784,785 extend in a radial direction (i.e. perpendicular to a longitudinal direction), and thus do not create a longitudinal space between adjacent elements ~~400~~ 100a, 100b, 100c.

Please replace the paragraph [0061] beginning on page 20 with the following amended paragraph:

[0061] Connection members 784, 785 may ~~connected~~ connect adjacent elements ~~400~~ 100a, 100b, 100c alone or in combination with welded connections (such as connections 570 and 572 of FIG. 5). Further, connection members 784, 785 may be sinusoidal shaped, as shown in FIG. 7. However, connection members may be other shapes, such as straight, hinged, or any other shape that would be apparent to one skilled in the art, provided that they are capable of spanning in a radial direction between segments of adjacent elements ~~400~~ 100a, 100b, 100c. However, it is preferred that connection members be sinusoidal shaped. Thus, as the segments (such as long segments ~~404~~ 104a, 104b on either end of connection member ~~404~~ 784) move apart from each other upon expansion of the stent, connection members will also expand. Sinusoidal shaped connection members may have as few as one turn or may have several turns bunched into a small area.